

You will listen and listen again, but not understand,  
see and see again, but not perceive.  
For the heart of this nation has grown coarse,  
their ears are dull of hearing,  
and they have shut their eyes,  
for fear they should see with their eyes,  
hear with their ears,  
understand with their heart,  
and be converted  
and be healed by me.

'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.'

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

#### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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# Breaking Open the Word

## THE GROWTH OF THE KINGDOM

Today's readings converge in their concern that we take time to wonder and reflect on the nature of the kingdom of God, its growth in the world, and in our own lives.

Despite its brevity, the reading from Isaiah is a powerful statement of hope in the ability of God's word to foster life and bring about growth. As the people of Israel struggled to rebuild after the exile Isaiah proclaimed his conviction in the power of God's word.

As Christians, how do we maintain our hope when the world is in confusion? How can we speak of the power of God's word when it is often challenged by our experience of the world desperate for healing and peace? After nearly 2000 years these questions may even be more critical for us than they were in Paul's time. For Paul the key lies in the image of the world and ourselves being involved in the painful process of giving birth. Christians have already received the gift of the Spirit as a foretaste and pledge of what is yet to come.

Jesus' timeless parable of the sower invites us to take heart that despite opposition the seed of God's kingdom has been planted in our world. Opposition, difficulties, and misunderstanding are surely present, but the growth of the kingdom is assured. Perhaps the most pressing question of all is whether we have ears to hear, and the faith to believe, that the kingdom will take root and grow in our world and hearts.



Christopher Monaghan CP



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

### FIRST READING

Isa 55:10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*The rain makes the earth give growth.*

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

■ The word of the Lord.

### RESP PSALM

Ps 64:10-14. R. Lk. 8:8

R. The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

1. You care for the earth, give it water, / you fill it with riches. / Your river in heaven brims over / to provide its grain. R.
2. And thus you provide for the earth; / you drench its furrows, / you level it, soften it with showers, / you bless its growth. R.
3. You crown the year with your goodness. / Abundance flows in your steps, / in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. R.
4. The hills are girded with joy, / the meadows covered with flocks, / the valleys are decked with wheat. / They shout for joy, yes, they sing. R.

### SECOND READING

Rom 8:18-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*All creation is waiting for the revelation of the children of God.*

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory

# THE SAVING WORD

16 JULY 2023

as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

■ The word of the Lord.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! / The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; / all who come to him will live for ever. / Alleluia!

### GOSPEL

Mt 13:1-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*A sower went out to sow.*

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but for anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:

16 July 23  
Wk 15 Yr A

## WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

**Website:** <https://stpatrickswesttamworthparish.org>  
**Email:** [westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au](mailto:westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au)



**Parish Priest** Fr Anthony Koppman  
**Pastoral Associate:** Sr Kathryn Sweeney RSJ.  
**Administration** Di Bolitho, Anne Bowden  
**Sacristan** Elaine Smyth  
**School Principals** Greg O'Toole and Maree Holland

**Office Hrs:** Wed & Thurs 8.30-11.30 am  
**Presbytery** 67658211  
**Pastoral Associate** 0411703608  
**St Josephs School** 67654079

**WEEKEND MASSES** **Sat:** 5.30pm **Sun:** 9am **Sun:** 5.00pm  
**WEEKDAY MASSES** **Wed:** 12pm Mass **Thur:** 9am Mass  
**Fri:** 12pm Mass

**CONFESIONS**  
**Sat:** 4.30-5.15pm  
\*Or by appointment

**ENTRANCE** As for me, injustice, I shall behold your face;  
**ANTIPHON:** I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

**COMMUNION** Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood, remains in me,  
**ANTIPHON:** and I in him, says the Lord.

**May God have mercy on all those asked to be remembered in prayer:**

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Fr Lewis Fenton, Sr Janet Cummings RSJ, John Geaney, Peter Sullivan, Harold Ward.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Peter Parsons, Patricia Kennedy(2/7), Wally Warner(2/7), William Barry Davy (25/7), Bridget Teo (29/7).

**DECEASED:** Margaret Peterson, Michael Kenny (Kendal), John Gray, Sr Patricia Bartley rsj, Sister Carole Gibbins rsj, Sr Judith Carney rsm, Maureen Travers, Greg Hiscox, Terry Doherty, Marjie Balfe, Sophie Littlejohns.

**SICK:** Monica Austin, Margaret Doyle, Baby Walker MacAlpine, Sandra Sheedy, John Betts, Gerard Dunn, Sr Gerard Joseph, Suzanne Roberts, Shane Davidson, Pauline Wiley, Joan Crowe, Lisa Foster, Shirley Collier, Norma O'Brien, Barbara Brennan, Colin MacPherson, Kate Harrison, Terry Dean, Maureen Harrison, Deacon Peter Harrison, William Bonner, Graeme Bussell, Alison and baby Huxley Gallagher, Fr Bernie Flood.

### VEENA'S VERSIONS



**A duck went to the bakery.** He ask the baker: "Hi do you have some seeds?", "No" said the baker. The next day the duck returned to the bakery and ask again: "Hi do you have some seeds?", "No, this is a bakery duck, we don't sell seeds here..." and so the duck kept on going to the bakery every day and asking for seeds. One day the baker had enough. "Listen duck", he said, "We don't sell seeds here and we never will, so stop asking or next time I'll chase you out with a hammer". The duck came back two days later. "Do you have a hammer?" he asked. "No" said the baker, surprised, so the duck said: "And what about seeds?"

### COMING EVENTS:

4 Aug: Closing date for St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship Trust (Website: [pallottine.org.au/svpsscholarship](http://pallottine.org.au/svpsscholarship))

29 Aug: 17 Nov - Mission & Evangelisation

Oct 15-20: Events Marriage and Family Week

### CHURCH COLLECTIONS: BSB 082105

1st. Collection - West Tamworth Presbytery Acc No: 001023642 (Diocesan collection)

2nd Collection - West Tamworth Church Catholic (St Patricks) Acc No: 001041198

\*\*Direct Debit or EFT donations are preferred for planned giving; however envelopes are still available, please enquire.

**COVID GUIDE:** \* FACE MASKS RECOMMENDED; \*ANTISEPIC WIPES/SANITISER AVAILABLE

*"In God and for God."*

**MASS TIME:** \*Please note Sunday afternoon Mass time is 5 pm.

\* Friday mass time is now 12 noon.



**WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY:** Pope Francis has declared Sunday 23 July 2023 as the day we acknowledge the enormous contribution of, and celebrate the blessings given to us by our grandparents and the elderly. The Holy Father Francis has also granted a plenary indulgence for those who attend mass. The indulgence is subject to the usual conditions of sacramental Confession, reception of the Eucharist, and prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father. This indulgence extends to those who dedicate significant time to visit—either in person or by virtual means of communication—their elderly brothers and sisters who are in need or facing difficulties, such as the sick, abandoned, and those with disabilities. For those unable to leave their homes due to serious reasons, spiritual participation in Mass celebrated for the World Day through prayer, offering their sufferings, and joining in the broadcasts of the People's various celebrations will also grant them the opportunity to obtain a plenary indulgence.

**SAVE CALVARY HOSPITAL:** The ACT Government has announced the compulsorily acquisition of Calvary Public Hospital in Canberra. You can support this taskforce by signing the petition 'Save Calvary' (<https://www.savecalvary.com.au/>).

**DIOCESAN VIEWPOINT MAGAZINE:** Please see the below link for the latest edition of Catholic Viewpoint to view in Flipbook Magazine style. The printable PDF version is also included via email. [Catholic Viewpoint – Issue 10 – April – June 2023](https://catholicviewpoint.org/issue-10-april-june-2023/)

**CATHOLIC WEEKLY:** • Bread from Heaven: the charity feeding Sydney (p12-13); • Synod on Synodality delegates announced (p1); • PNG Cardinal Ribat visits Sydney (4-5)

### PRAYER FOR OUR NEW BISHOP

God our Father, in Jesus, your Son,  
You have given to your Church the perfect model of priest,  
prophet and king, and so You have blessed us through His sacrifice,  
taught us through His Word, and guided us through His rule.  
We ask You, Father, to guide and enlighten those who will be tasked  
with helping to choose the next bishop of our diocese.

May the person they choose be one of deep and true prayer, a person of a  
compassionate heart and firm resolve, and a person of joy and peace, who desires  
above all to do Your will.

We entrust our prayers to our Patroness, Mary,  
Queen of the Most Holy Rosary,  
and ask this through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen



### WEEK 2 ROSTER: 16/7/23

**Vigil:** R Sr Kathryn N Pullman  
**9am Sun:** R S Brown R Paull  
**5.00pm Sun:** R M Murray \*\*D Bearman/Volunteer  
**Counting Team** S Brown, A Bowden  
**Fri Cleaning** 21/7 M Vella, A Jones  
**Altar Linen:** M Vella

### WEEK 3 ROSTER: 23/7/23

**Vigil:** R C Ledwos Di Bolitho  
**9am Sun:** R M Holley A Sartori  
**5.00pm Sun:** R M Murray D Bearman  
**Counting Team** A Bowden  
**Fri Cleaning** 28/7 S Brown, V Griffiths  
**Altar Linen:** E Smyth

We acknowledge the First Nations people who have walked upon and care for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of First Nations people to this land and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

